

# *Sounder South Program Update & Contract Modification*

*M2023-37*

*System Expansion Committee*

*05/11/2023*



# *Why we are here today*

- Update on double track & signal improvements, planning for which is supported by a FRA CRISI grant
- Discuss updating the Souder South Strategic Plan
- Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to execute a contract modification with David Evans and Associates Inc. (Motion No. M2023-37) to support these activities

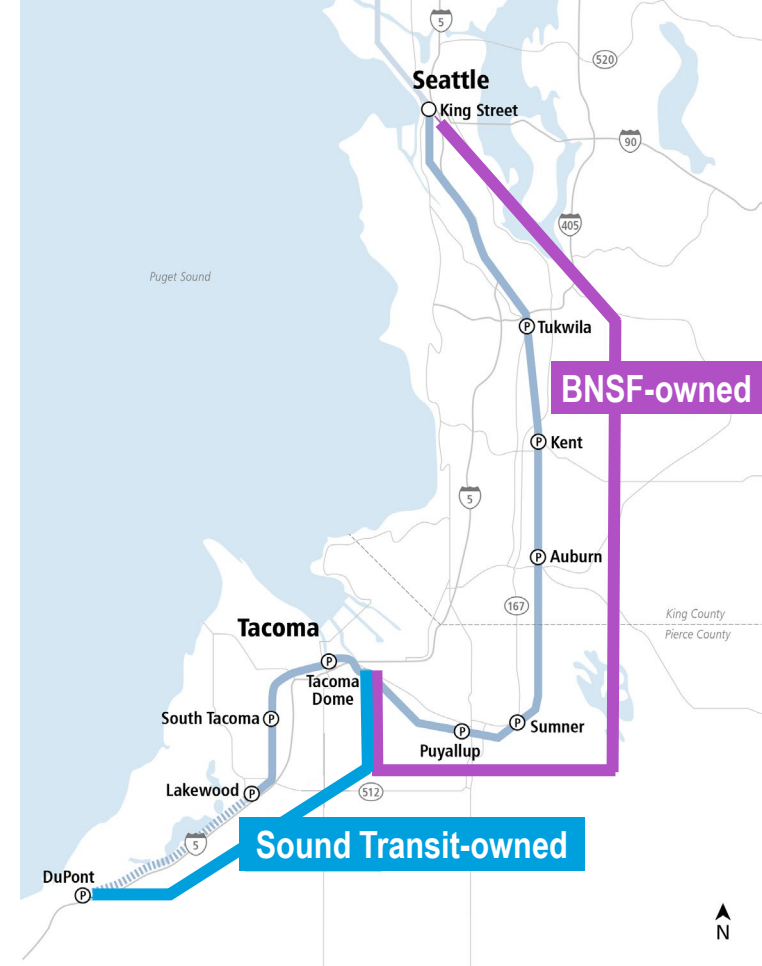
# ST3 Sounder Expansion

## Sounder South Capacity Expansion (SSCE)

- Potential for more daily trips\*
- Longer trains
- Station access improvements

## DuPont Extension

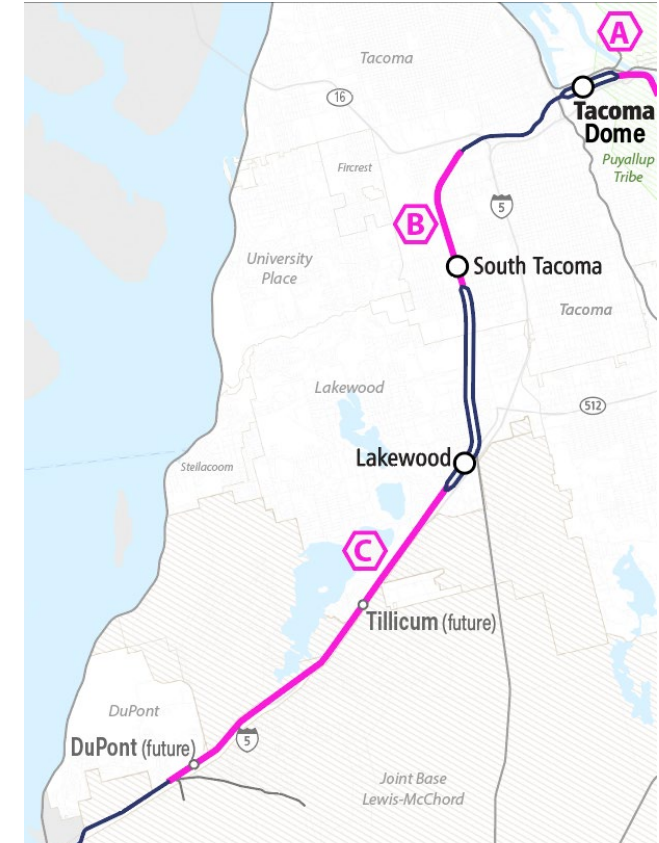
- Track & signal improvements to increase capacity\*
- Stations at DuPont and Tillicum



# *Double Track & Signal Improvements*

# Double Track & Signal Improvements

- Awarded FRA CRISI matching grant for planning only for three double track projects:
  - **Segment A:** TR Junction to Portland Avenue
  - **Segment B:** South Pine Street to South 66th Street
  - **Segment C:** Lakewood to DuPont
- DuPont Extension and SSCE match



— Existing ST-owned track  
— Project Area to double track

# Sounder Expansion timeline



WE ARE HERE

## DOUBLE TRACK PLANNING 2023-2027

**2023-2026:**  
Conceptual engineering & environmental review

**2026-2027:**  
Preliminary Engineering

**Grant supported phase**

## DUPONT EXT STATIONS 2034-2037

**2034-2036:**  
Conceptual engineering & environmental review

**2036-2037:**  
Preliminary Engineering



## DESIGN 2038-2040

Final design  
Establish agreements and permits with local jurisdictions



## CONSTRUCTION 2040-2045

Groundbreaking  
Construction updates

OPEN TO PUBLIC



2045 - 2046

# *Potential risks to be evaluated*

## **Engineering**

- Coordinated design with TDLE in Dome District
- Address road bridges over single track segments

## **Environmental**

- Potential cultural resources
- A superfund site located along rail corridor
- South 66<sup>th</sup> Street bridge
- Two fish bearing creeks along rail corridor

***Sounder South  
Strategic Plan Update***



# Sounder South Strategic Plan

April 2020 Priorities, supported by SSCE



1. Extend platforms to accommodate 10-car train lengths



2. Negotiate with BNSF for additional daily trips



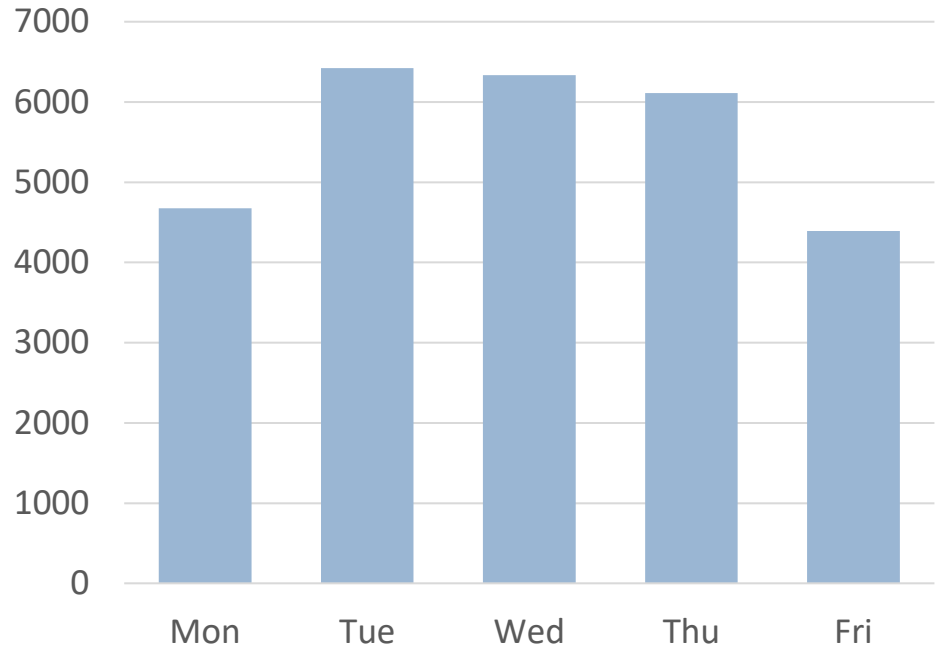
3. Provide station area access improvements to extended platforms



# Sounder S-Line service

- Restored pre-pandemic service - 13 round trips
- Ridership is at 31% of its peak in 2019
- Ridership demand is still evolving

S Line Day of Week Ridership (2023)



# ***Why re-evaluate Sounder South service now?***

- Sounder investments priorities set in pre-Covid conditions
- Hybrid work is changing commute patterns
- Growing public & city interest in alternate trip times
- Peer agencies also evaluating service alternatives
- FRA funding opportunities, unique to Sounder

## ***2023 / 2024 activities***

- Conduct Public Engagement
- Update the Sounder South ridership model
- Develop a Demographics & Equity Study
- Complete a Peer Agency Evaluation
- Engage BNSF, WSDOT Rail and other agencies

***Today's action***

# Today's Action

## **Approve Motion No. M2023-37:**

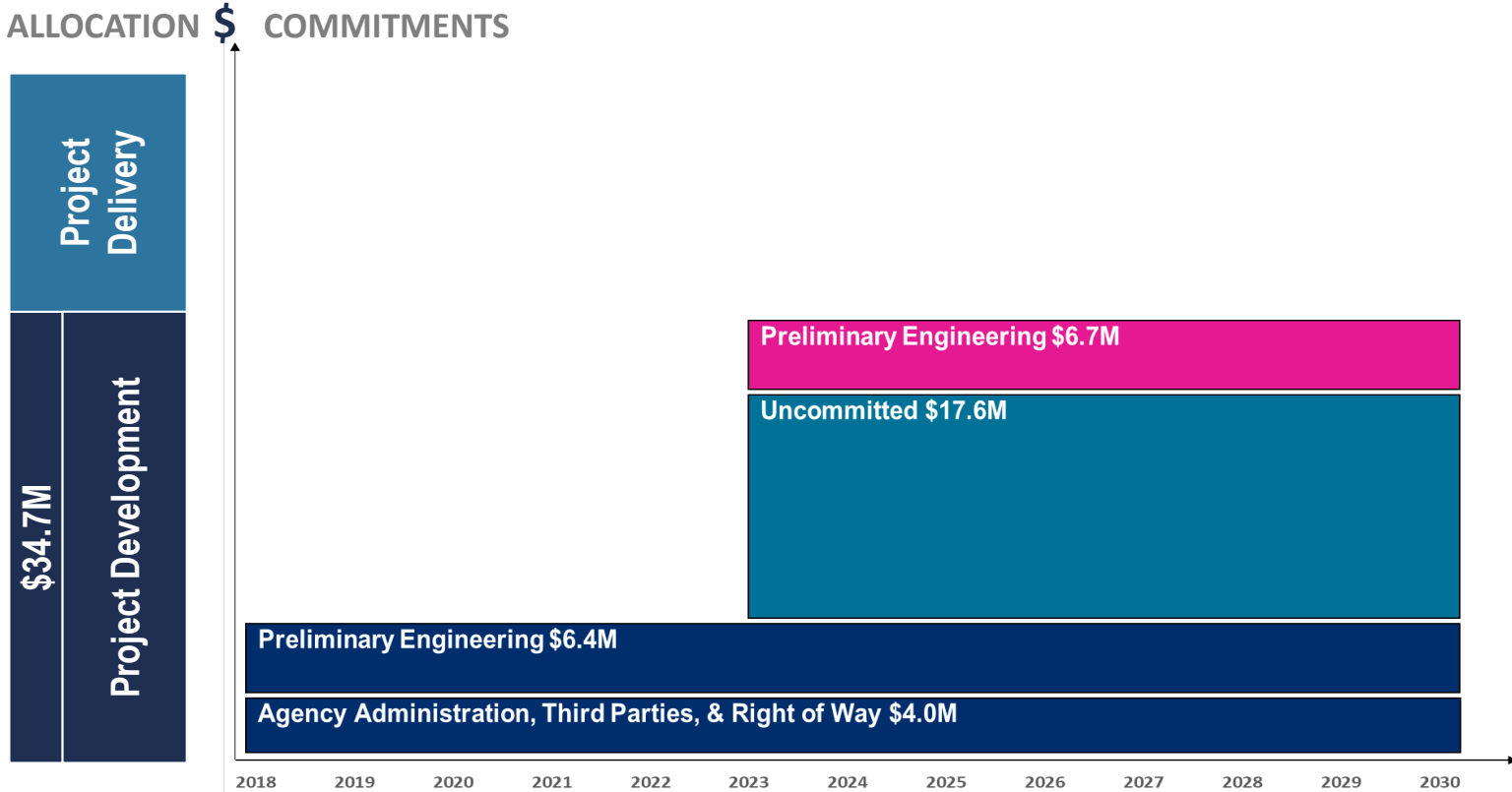
- Authorize the chief executive officer to execute a contract modification with David Evans and Associates, Inc. for a total of \$9,751,111 which includes 10% contingency to support:
  - Conceptual engineering & environmental review for three double track and signal segments in Pierce County
  - Update to the Sounder South Strategic Plan, which includes support for external engagement and a peer agency evaluation

# ***SSCE / DuPont Projects Affordability***

- Current cost estimate for the DuPont Sounder Extension is \$446 million in 2022\$. The current cost estimate for the Sounder South Capacity Expansion project is \$1,290 million in 2022\$. Both are affordable within the Agency's Finance Plan.
- Managing the project toward a 2045 delivery for the DuPont Sounder Extension and a 2046 delivery for SSCE, consistent with both Affordable and Initial Target Schedules.
- Action is consistent with the schedule and financial plan adopted by the Board in Resolution No. R2021-05 and does not impact the affordability of any other system expansion project.

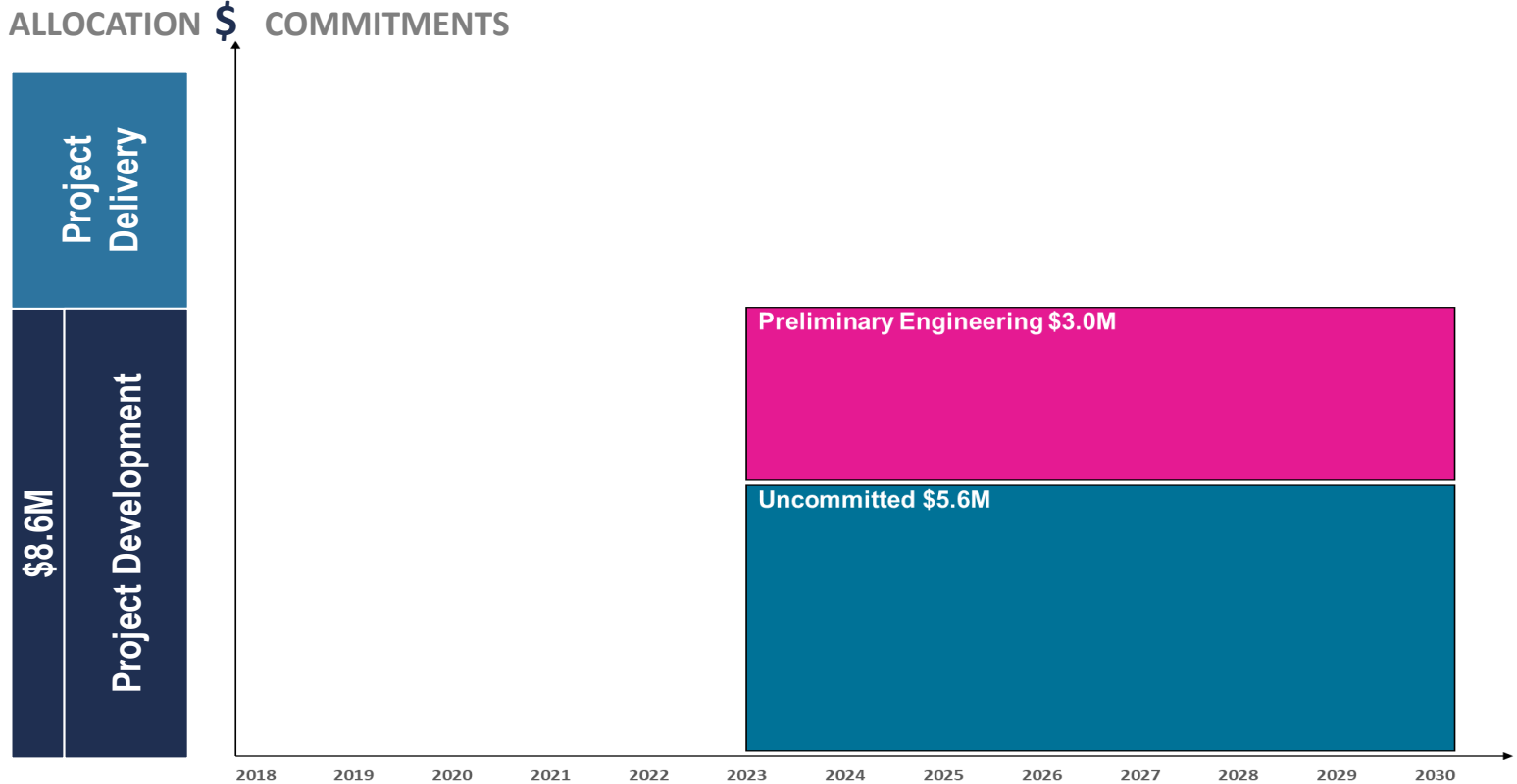
# SSCE: \$6.7M David & Associates, Inc. contract modification

ALLOCATION \$ COMMITMENTS





# DuPont Sounder Extension: \$3.0M David & Associates, Inc. contract modification



*Thank you.*



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